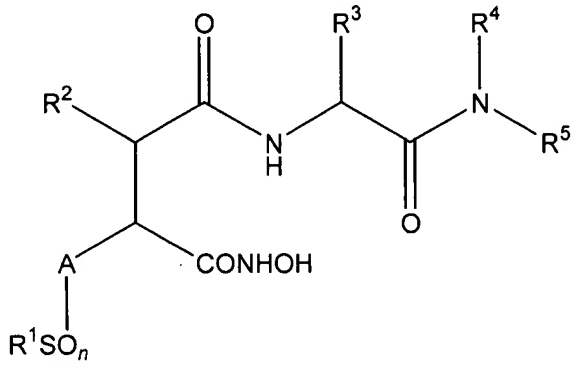
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 43-66 and enter the following amendments to claims 1-42.

1. (currently amended) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina, wherein the composition comprises a polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of ~~the~~ said batimastat compound.

2. (currently amended) The method of 1, wherein ~~the~~ said mammal is a human.

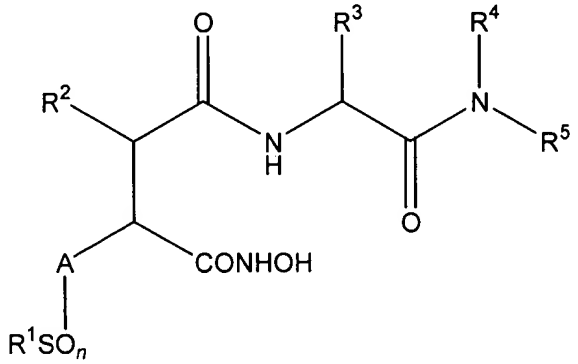
3. (currently amended) The method of 1, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is batimastat.

4. (currently amended) The method of 1, wherein ~~the~~ said polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

5. (currently amended) The method of 1, wherein ~~the~~ said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

6. (currently amended) The method of 5, wherein ~~the~~ said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

7. (currently amended) A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina, wherein the composition

comprises a polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of ~~the~~ said batimastat compound.

8. (currently amended) The method of 7, wherein ~~the~~ said mammal is a human.

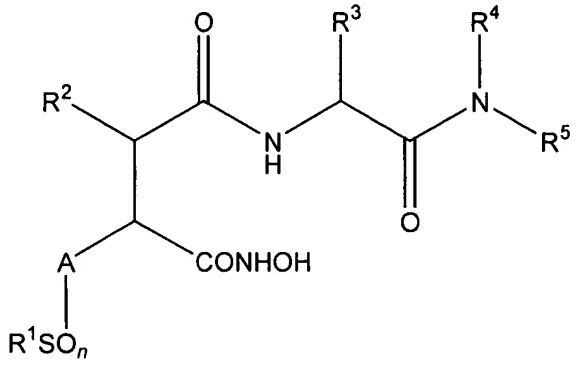
9. (currently amended) The method of 7, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is batimastat.

10. (currently amended) The method of 7, wherein ~~the~~ said polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

11. (currently amended) The method of 7, wherein ~~the~~ said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

12. (currently amended) The method of 11, wherein ~~the~~ said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

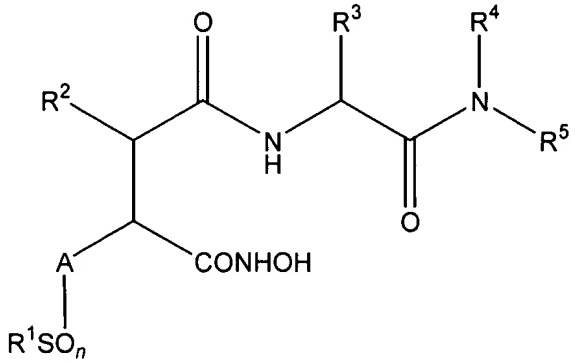
13 (currently amended) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents

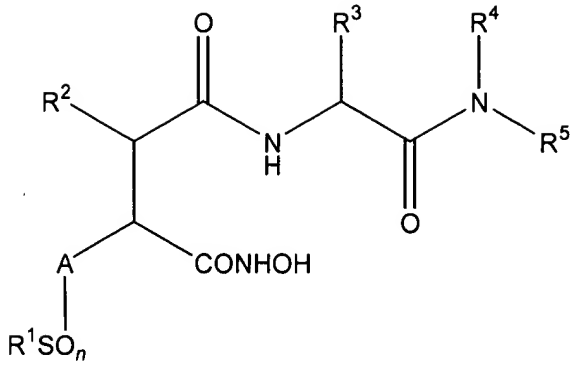
a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina.

14. (currently amended) A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina.

15. (currently amended) A method of treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, and a polymeric suspension agent, wherein said composition is capable of delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of ~~the~~ said batimastat compound.

16. (currently amended) The method of 15, wherein ~~the~~ said mammal is a human.

17. (currently amended) The method of 15, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is batimastat.

18. (currently amended) The method of 15, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.01 to about 3 percent by weight.

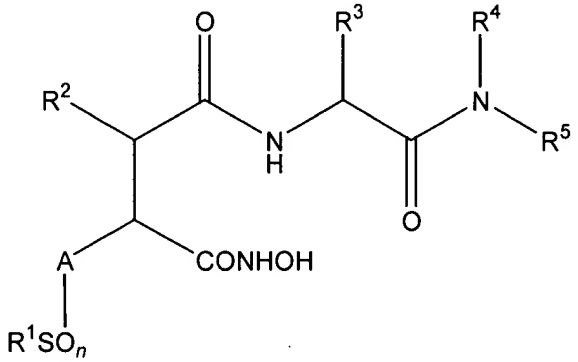
19. (currently amended) The method of 15, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

20. (currently amended) The method of 15, wherein ~~the~~ said polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

21. (currently amended) The method of 15, wherein ~~the~~ said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

22. (currently amended) The method of 21, wherein ~~the~~ said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

23. (currently amended) A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, and a polymeric suspension agent, wherein said composition is capable of delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of ~~the~~ said batimastat compound.

24. (currently amended) The method of 23, wherein ~~the~~ said mammal is a human.

25. (currently amended) The method of 23, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is batimastat.

26. (currently amended) The method of 23, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.01 to about 3 percent by weight.

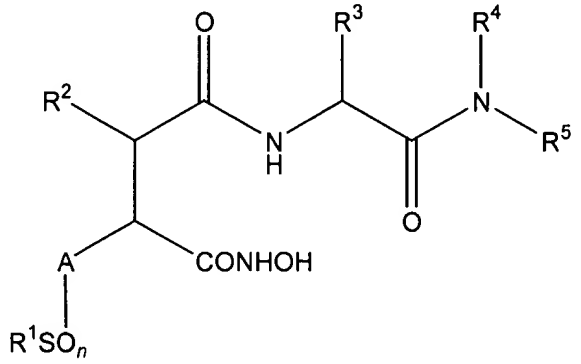
27. (currently amended) The method of 23, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

28. (currently amended) The method of 23, wherein ~~the~~ said polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

29. (currently amended) The method of 23, wherein ~~the~~ said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

30. (currently amended) The method of 29, wherein ~~the~~ said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

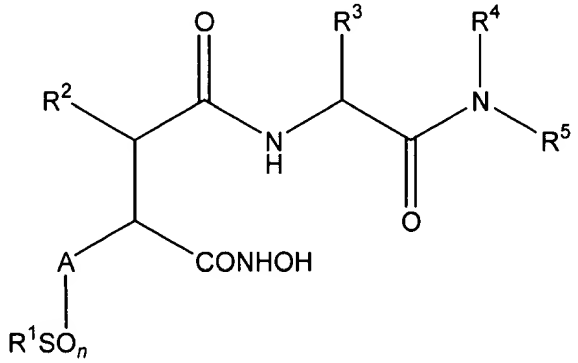
31. (currently amended) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents

a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, and delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of ~~the~~ said batimastat compound.

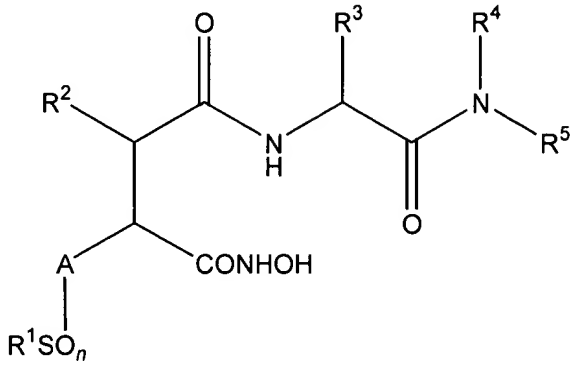
32. (currently amended) A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, and delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of ~~the~~ said batimastat compound.

33. (currently amended) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of

delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina, wherein the composition comprises a carboxyl-vinyl polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of ~~the~~ said batimastat compound.

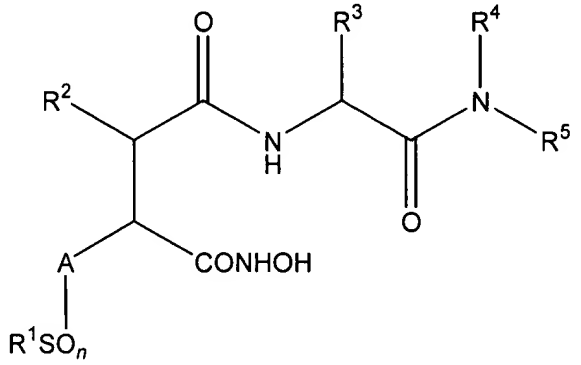
34. (currently amended) The method of 33, wherein ~~the~~ said mammal is a human.

35. (currently amended) The method of 33, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is batimastat.

36. (currently amended) The method of 33, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

37. (currently amended) The method of 33, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.1 to about 0.3 percent by weight.

38. (currently amended) A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina, wherein the composition comprises a carboxyl-vinyl polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of ~~the~~ said batimastat compound.

39. (currently amended) The method of 38, wherein ~~the~~ said mammal is a human.

40. (currently amended) The method of 38, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is batimastat.

41. (currently amended) The method of 38, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

42. (currently amended) The method of 38, wherein ~~the~~ said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.1 to about 0.3 percent by weight.

43. - 66. (cancelled)